

1. An article comprising a controlled-release drug delivery system, said system comprising:

an inflexible sleeve, wherein said inflexible sleeve has a first end and a second end and is open at both said first and second ends; and

a first controlled-release layer and a second controlled-release layer, wherein said controlled-release layers:

are disposed within said sleeve;

are spaced-apart from one another, defining a drug-retaining region in the space between said controlled-release layers; and

admit, in a controlled manner, body fluid into said drug-retaining region.

2. The article of claim 1 wherein said controlled-release layers undergo dissolution by exposure to said body fluid, the rate of said dissolution effecting a delay of drug release into an ambient environment.

3. The article of claim 1 wherein said controlled-release layers control a rate of diffusion of body fluid into and out of said drug-retaining region.

4. The article of claim 1 further comprising at least one dose unit of drug, said at least one dose unit being disposed in said drug-retaining region.

5. The article of claim 1 wherein an inner surface of said sleeve has a first sealing surface near said first end thereof and a second sealing surface near said second end thereof, a marginal region of said first controlled-release layer abutting said first sealing surface and a marginal region of said second controlled-release layer abutting said second sealing surface.

6. The article of claim 5 further comprising:

a first cap, wherein said first cap has an open center, and wherein said first cap is received by said first end of said sleeve and abuts said marginal region of said first controlled-release layer; and

a second cap, wherein said second cap has an open center, and wherein said second cap is received by said second end of said sleeve and abuts said marginal region of said second controlled-release layer.

7. The article of claim 6 further comprising at least one dose unit of drug, said at least one dose unit being disposed in said drug-retaining region.

8. The article of claim 7 further comprising:

a dose unit of drug, disposed adjacent said first end of said sleeve outside of said drug-retaining region; and

a dose unit of a drug, disposed adjacent said second end of said sleeve outside of said drug-retaining region.

9. The article of claim 8 wherein drug(s) contained in the dose unit(s) disposed inside said drug-retaining region differ(s) from the drug of at least one of said dose units disposed outside said drug-retaining region.

10. The article of claim 8 wherein the drug of each dose unit disposed outside said drug-retaining region is different from one another.

11. The article of claim 7, wherein said dose unit of drug has a dosage form selected from the group consisting of tablet, capsule, liquid, loose powder, and a core.

12. The article of claim 7, wherein the dosage form of said dose unit(s) of drug disposed in said drug retaining region is a core.

13. The article of claim 12, wherein said core comprises a cover layer, and said cover layer affects a rate at which the drug of the dose unit(s) disposed inside said drug-retaining region is delivered from said controlled-release drug delivery system.

14. The article of claim 7, wherein the dosage form of said dose unit(s) of drug disposed in said drug-retaining region is a tablet.

15. The article of claim 1, wherein said sleeve comprises a material selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate.

16. A method comprising:

disposing a first dose unit of a first drug in an inflexible sleeve;

disposing a first controlled-release layer and a second controlled-release layer within said sleeve on opposite sides of said first dose unit;

inserting a first cap in said sleeve to abut said first controlled-release layer, wherein said first cap has an opening; and

inserting a second cap in said sleeve to abut said second controlled-release layer, wherein said second cap has an opening.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising disposing a second dose unit of a second drug in said sleeve within said opening of said first cap.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

disposing a second dose unit of a second drug in said sleeve; and

disposing said second dose unit between said first controlled-release layer and said second controlled-release layer.